

Southwest Corridor Commuter Rail

Chicago, Illinois

(November 2002)

Description

Metra, the commuter rail division of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) of Northeastern Illinois, is constructing an additional 12 miles of trackage within an existing 33 mile corridor connecting Union Station in downtown Chicago to 179th Street in Orland Park, Illinois. The project will extend commuter rail service from Orland Park southwest to Manhattan, Illinois. The project includes construction of 3.3 miles of a second mainline track, three additional stations, parking facilities and multiple improvements to tracks, signals and stations. In addition, several railroad bridges will be rehabilitated, an existing rail yard will be expanded, a new rail yard layover facility will be constructed, and three locomotives will be purchased. The additional trackage, new stations and related improvements, will enable Metra to operate 30 trains per day (15 inbound and 15 outbound trains) along the Southwest Corridor. Metra estimates 13,800 average weekday boardings, including 7,600 daily new riders in 2020.

Total project cost under the Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA) for the Southwest Corridor (SWC) is \$198.12 million. The Section 5309 New Starts funding share for the project is \$103.02 million.

Status

In April 1997, Metra initiated a Major Investment Study (MIS) for the SWC. The MIS was completed in August 1998. In December 1998, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved Metra's request to initiate the Preliminary Engineering and environmental review process on the SWC project. Metra completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project in September 2000 and FTA issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on the EA in October 2000. FTA approved the SWC project entry into Final Design in January 2001. Metra and FTA entered into an FFGA on November 5, 2001, with a revenue operations date scheduled for December 2006. Construction started in 2002 and is currently 10 percent complete. Through FY 2002, Congress has appropriated \$38.50 million in Section 5309 New Starts funds to this project.

TEA-21 Section 3030(a)(43) authorizes the "Southwest Extension [Metra]" for Final Design and construction.

Reported in Year of Expenditure Dollars		
<u>Source of Funds</u>	<u>Total Funding (million)</u>	<u>Appropriations to Date</u>
Federal:		
Section 5309 New Starts FFGA Commitment	\$103.02	\$38.50 million appropriated through FY 2002
Section 5309 Fixed Guideway Modernization	\$ 29.90	
Section 5307 Urbanized Area Formula	\$ 4.40	
State:		
Illinois DOT Bonds	\$ 3.30	
Local:		
Metra	\$ 18.20	
Municipality Contributions	\$ 8.60	
SCIP Bonds	\$ 30.70	
TOTAL	\$198.12	

NOTE: Totals may not add due to rounding.

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